

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this *Information Disclosure Statement* is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date, February 24, 2005.

*Karen Buzinski*  
Karen Buzinski

*HFW*  
Customer Number

24024

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hotton, et al.	)	Examiner:	Peter J. Hisch
	)		
Serial No.: 10/708,293	)	Art Unit:	3754
	)		
Filed: February 23, 2004	)	Attorney Docket No.:	22188/06779
	)		
For: <b>BALL VALVE SEAT SEAL</b>	)		

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B forms and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attorney Docket No. 22188/06779

Appln. No. 10/708,293

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

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Complete English translations of foreign language documents are being submitted herewith, and therefore no concise explanation for such documents is required.

**CERTIFICATION AND FEE PAYMENT INFORMATION**

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. If this is not the case, the patent office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to **Deposit Account No. 030172**.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from a Communication from a foreign patent office and Applicant submits the following Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this Communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant submits the following Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. If this is not the case, the patent office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to **Deposit Account No. 030172**

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attorney Docket No. 22188/06779

Appln. No. 10/708,293

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier). Accordingly, Applicant submits the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The fee is being paid in the following manner:

A check is attached in the amount of \$180.00 as required under 37 § 1.17(p).

The patent office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and any related fee to **Deposit Account No. 030172**

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing of a final Office Action, Notice of Allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but on or before the payment of the issue fee. Accordingly, Applicant submits the following Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) along with the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

AND, the fee is being paid in the following manner:

A check is attached in the amount of \$180.00 as required under 37 § 1.17(p).

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
Appln. No. 10/708,293

Attorney Docket No. 22188/06779

The patent office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and any related fee to **Deposit Account No. 030172**

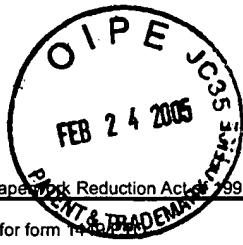
Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 21, 2005

By: MR Hull

Mark R. Hull, Reg. No. 54,753

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

**U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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Substitute for form T-100-PA

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

**(Use as many sheets as necessary)**

Sheet 1 of 2

<b><i>Complete if Known</i></b>	
Application Number	10/708,293
Filing Date	February 23, 2004
First Named Inventor	Bruce A. Hotton
Art Unit	3753
Examiner Name	Paul J. Hirsch
Attorney Docket Number	22188/06779

## **U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 4,792,118	12/20/88	Yusko	
		US- 2,942,840	06/28/60	Clade	
		US- 3,370,825	02/27/68	Scaramucci	
		US- 3,401,914	09/17/68	Shand	
		US- 4,111,393	09/05/78	McClurg et al.	
		US- 4,572,239	02/25/86	Koch et al.	
		US-			
		US- 3,428,292	02/1969	Scaramucci	
		US- 3,566,909	03/1971	Scaramucci	
		US- 3,647,179	03/1972	Scaramucci	
		US- 3,677,514	07/1972	Mencarelli	
		US-			
		US- 4,023,773	05/1977	Wise	
		US- 4,258,900	03/1981	Kindersley	
		US- 4,386,756	06/1983	Muchow	
		US-			
		US- 4,602,762	07/1986	Koch et al.	
		US- 4,934,656	06/1990	Groves et al.	
		US- 5,145,150	09/1992	Brooks	

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

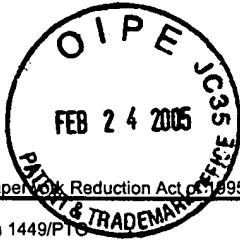
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		EP 774 090	05/1997	Tyco Flow	
		GB 2187264	09/03/87	Whitey Co	
		GB 2065276	06/24/81	Whitey Co.	
		TW 280372	07/01/96		
		TW 287608	10/01/96		
		TW 364566	07/11/99		

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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PTO/SB/08B (08-03)

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**Complete if Known**

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

2

of

2

<b>Application Number</b>	10/708,293
<b>Filing Date</b>	February 23, 2004
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Bruce A. Hotton
<b>Art Unit</b>	3753
<b>Examiner Name</b>	Paul J. Hirsch
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	22188/06779

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US00/032046.	
		International Publication No. WO/01/38761 with International Search Report.	
		Brochure "H83P Series Ball Valves", Swagelok, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2 pgs.	
		Article from www.swagelok.com website, "Ball Valves General Purpose and Special Application", July 2002, 24 pgs.	
		Article from www.swagelok.com website, "Trunnion Ball Valves", 2000, 2002, 10 pgs.	
		Translation of Taiwanese Office action issued 01/29/02, 2 pgs from corresponding Taiwanese patent application No. 89124895.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.  
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